



## Earth Day 2015

### *Recycling Facts*

- Recycling just **48 cans** is the energy equivalent of conserving **one gallon of gas**
- Since 1990, the paper recovered through U.S. recycling efforts would fill **200 football stadiums** to a height of **100 feet**
- The most recycled consumer product in America is the **automobile**, with **26 cars being recycled every minute**
- Every ton of recycled paper saves **17 trees** and **462 gallons** of oil
- **One pound** of newspaper can be recycled into **6 cereal boxes** or **egg cartons**
- In the U.S., we toss more than **100 million cell phones** in the trash every year
- EPA reports that over **112,000 computers** are discarded every single day, in the U.S. alone. That's **41.1 million** desktops and laptop computers per year!
- Only **30%** of electronic waste is disposed of and recycled properly
- Recycling just **one aluminum beverage can** saves enough energy to run a **100-watt bulb** for **20 hours**, a computer for **3 hours** or a TV for **2 hours**
- Recycling **125 aluminum cans** saves enough energy to power one home for a day
- Recycling one ton of cardboard:
  - Saves **390 kWh** of energy
  - Saves **1.1 barrels (46 gallons)** of oil
  - Saves **6.6 million Btus** of energy.
- If everyone in the U.S. was able to reduce their **10.8 pieces of junk mail** received each week, we could save nearly **100 million trees** each year.
- If every household in the U.S. replaced one roll of non-recycled paper towels with a roll of **100% recycled paper towels**, we would save **864,000 trees** and **3.4 million cubic feet of landfill space**.
- If **10,000 people** switched from zero to 100% post-consumer recycled office paper for a year, the collective annual impact is equivalent to **taking 230 cars off the road** for a year

- A typical disposable lunch, with items like single-serve yogurt, Ziploc bags and juice boxes, creates 4 to 8 oz. of garbage every day. In a year, this could generate up to **67 pounds of waste!**
- Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans throw away one million extra tons of garbage every week
- The average U.S. citizen uses **200 pounds of plastic per year** and **only 3% is recycled**. Glass makes up 6% of all the items in a landfill and it takes over 1 million years to decompose
- An average of **220 tons** of computers and other e-waste is dumped annually

**For more information on the Air Force's Earth Day efforts, visit**  
<http://www.afcec.af.mil/news/earthday>